

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCI-06 INT-08 FEA-02 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 L-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 181920Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1398

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 3540

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BR, PA, AR

SUBJECT: ITAIPU PROJECT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6915

1. ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON PART OF BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING ITAIPU MAY BE BASED ON LENGTHY JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER 9. THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT HEIGHT OF ITAIPU HAD BEEN RAISED TO 176 METERS AND, AS RESULT, AVOIDED ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FROM PROPOSED ARGENTINE/PARAGUAYAN DAMS AT CORPUS AND YACYRETA-APIPE. HEIGHTS OF LATTER DAMS WERE GIVEN, RESPECTIVELY, AS 120 AND 86 METERS. ARTICLE WENT ON TO STATE THAT DOWNSTREAM DAMS HAD BEEN SERIOUS IMPEDIMENTS TO ITAIPU, BUT NEW HEIGHT OF ITAIPU WAS DEFINITE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

2. ELECTROBRAS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING (IECO) OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER THAT JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLE IS "NONSENSE". THE TAILWATER OF A 120

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METER HIGH DAM AT CORPUS WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON

ITAIPU'S DISCHARGE. IT WOULD ALSO FLOOD BRAZILIAN TERRITORY. ON OTHER HAND, ITAIPU'S DISCHARGE, AND THE REGULATION THEREOF, WILL HAVE DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE UNDERSTAND QUESTION OF DAMS ON PARANA RIVER IS STILL A SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA, PARAGUA AND BRAZIL. ACCORDING TO SOURCE AT IECO, THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR ITAIPU TOOK THE APPROACH THAT THE ARGENTINES WOULD NOT BUILD AT CORPUS UNTIL FAR IN THE FUTURE. THE SAME SOURCE INDICATED THAT ITAIPU'S HEIGHT (DESCRIBED AS HEADWATER ELEVATION OF 220 METERS) IS SAME AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND CANNOT BE CHANGED.

3. CONSULATE GENERAL IS ATTEMPTING MEET WITH MARIO BHERING, ELETROBRAS PRESIDENT, AND WE WILL REPORT FURTHER IF SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION DEVELOPED. WE UNDERSTAND ELETROBRAS IS HANDLING TECHNICAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINES AND PARAGUAYANS REGARDING THE DAMS.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, INTERNATIONAL DAMS, ITAIPU
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RIODE03540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740262-0323
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740935/aaaabdlv.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUENOS AIRES 6915
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITAIPU PROJECT
TAGS: ENRG, BR, PA, AR
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005